

REMARKS

The undersigned representative thanks the Examiner for clarifying that the rejection status is Nonfinal per the telephonic discussion held on May 4, 2006. This clarification was requested in view of the conflicting information in the Office Action and the assertion of new grounds of rejection that were not necessitated by amendment or information disclosure submission on the part of the applicant. The undersigned also appreciates the allowance of claims 35-37 and indicated allowability of subject matter in dependent claims 3-8, 12-14, 18, 20-22, 26, and 29.

Claims 1-3, 5, 8-9, 17, and 23 have been amended; claims 4 and 13 have been cancelled without prejudice to consideration in a continuing application; and dependent claims 38 and 39 have been added to define other inventive aspects of the present application. No fee is believed to be due for the addition of two dependent claims because a like number of dependent claims have been cancelled; however, two more independent claims result from this amendment. Correspondingly, payment in the amount of requisite claim fees is provided through the credit card authorization included herewith.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 4, the combination of which was indicated to be allowable in the Office Action. Claim 4 was cancelled and claims 5 and 8 have been amended consistent with the amendment of independent claim 1. Dependent claims 2 and 3 have each been amended to include the subject matter of base claim 1 and to be put into independent form. Both of these combinations were indicated to be allowable in the Office Action. Independent claim 9

has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 13, the combination of which was indicated to be allowable in the Office Action. Claim 13 was cancelled consistent with the amendment of independent claim 9. Independent claim 17 has been amended to include subject matter from claim 20 in a manner believed to be allowable. Claim 20 was amended to be consistent with the change to claim 17. Accordingly, it is believed claims 1-3, 5-12, 14-16, 23-25, 27-29, and 31-34 are in condition for allowance.

Independent claim 23 was rejected as being an obvious combination of U.S. Patent No. 4,068,281 to Harnden (hereinafter "Harnden") and U.S. Patent No. 5,610,451 (hereinafter "Symonds"), which is respectfully traversed. The features of claim 23 include transient suppression circuitry **coupled between the sensor and the power source**. The Office Action asserts that varistor 10 of Harnden discloses a sensor. Varistor 10 "having two terminals 11 and 12 is connected across the conductors 13 and 14 of a power supply in a typical transient absorption application." Harnden, col. 4, lines 18-20. Assuming *arguendo* that varistor 10 is a sensor, Harnden fails to teach or suggest transient suppression circuitry coupled between the sensor and the power source as defined in claim 23. The functional role of varistor 10 as part of a transient suppression circuit discourages consideration of these features. In fact, in some of the Harnden embodiments, only varistor 10 is directly connected to power, which further leads away from the claimed invention. The proposed inclusion of components from Symonds does not cure the deficiencies of the rejection. For at least the same reasons, corresponding dependent claims 25, 27, and 28 are believed to be patentable. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 23, 25, 27, and 28 is respectfully requested.

While it is believed that all grounds of rejection are based on an improper interpretation of Harnden as disclosing a sensor (among other things), amendments have been made to expedite allowance. The Applicant reserves the right to present subject matter previously presented in the claims in a continuing application.

In view of the forgoing, it is believed that claims 1-3, 5-12, 14-29, and 31-39 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the above-identified patent application is respectfully requested. The Examiner is cordially invited to contact the undersigned by telephone to discuss any unresolved matters.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Scott Paynter', is written over a horizontal line.

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